

## Sometimes more is Less - Norman's Notes No. 44

Listen to (and act on) the Bidding.

Board 7 25<sup>th</sup> July

Dealer South. Both vulnerable

♠ A J 5

♥ Q J 3

♦ 7 4

♣ A Q J 9 6

♠ Q 10 8 4

♥ A 5

♦ K J 10 5 3 2

♣ 3

Unsurprisingly, all five North-Souths reached 3NT on this hand, but they did not have a free run in the bidding. That interference should have been helpful in the play, but nevertheless only one contract succeeded. This was the bidding at one table:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			<i>1D</i>
<i>1NT(a)</i>	<i>2C</i>	<i>pass</i>	<i>2D</i>
<i>Pass</i>	<i>3NT</i>	<i>pass</i>	<i>pass</i>
<i>X</i>	<i>pass</i>	<i>pass(b)</i>	<i>pass</i>

*(a) 15-17 HCP*

*(b) Worried.*

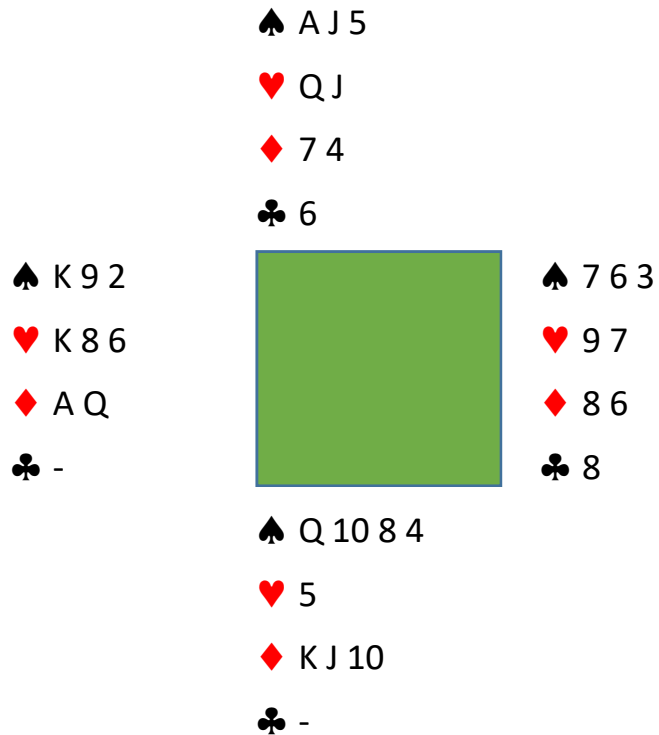
East led ♥10 against North's 3NT doubled. How should declarer plan the play?  
 (a) It should be clear that with 15 HCP missing, West has them all. (b) With limited entries to dummy and ♦A-Q sitting over dummy's suit, tackling diamonds is futile. (c) There are two heart tricks and others must come from the black suits.

Declarer wins ♥A at trick one (or perhaps ducks to West's King who returns a second heart) and leads dummy's club. West plays the ♣10 and declarer's Queen wins the trick. Conclusion: Good news; West must hold K-10 doubleton. Playing ♣A confirms this when the King falls, and you cash two more club tricks as West discards a diamond and a spade. Now you play ♠A-J and West takes ♠K and ♥K (if not played earlier), but you have nine tricks: 3+2+0+4. Not too difficult, is it?

The full hands:

	♠ A J 5	
	♥ Q J 3	
	♦ 7 4	
	♣ A Q J 9 6	
♠ K 9 2	<div style="background-color: #8ebf42; width: 100px; height: 100px; border: 1px solid #000;"></div>	♠ 7 6 3
♥ K 8 6 4 2		♥ 10 9 7
♦ A Q 9		♦ 8 6
♣ K 10		♣ 8 7 5 4 2
	♠ Q 10 8 4	
	♥ A 5	
	♦ K J 10 5 3 2	
	♣ 3	

But West can make things more difficult by discarding slightly differently on the clubs; a diamond and a heart. This is now the position after the 4th club has been cashed:



North plays ♠A-J, West holds up the King and declarer is cut off from dummy's spades! Whatever declarer's continuation, West has a safe heart exit and will score four more tricks. Well defended. But declarer has an answer. In the diagrammed position he must lead a low spade to the ten. West cannot now afford to duck. Try it.

The full results: 3NT\*-2, 3NT-2, 3NT-1 (twice) and 3NT made.